

The Great Events Which Have Happened During the Year.

The events of the year 1898 will mark a notable page in the world's history. War between the United States and Spain resulted in the almost entire loss by the latter country of its colonies and the destruction of the larger part of its fleet. Commodore Dewey at one brilliant stroke annihilated the Spanish fleet at Manila and Admiral Sampson's fleet inflicted a similar defeat to the Spanish squadron at Santiago. Gen. Shafter in a most gallant land attack at Santiago drove the Spaniards back to their last trenches and forced a surrender. Gen. Miles achieved a similar success in Porto Rico. These victories won in the short space of three months made Spain sue for peace.

The czar of Russia issued an appeal to the great powers of the world asking for an alliance in the interests of peace. His appeal was practically a plea for the disarmament of the military establishments of the world. What is known as the Dreyfus case again became a disturbing factor in France and nearly resulted in bringing about a revolution in that country and created discussions which extended to other courts in Europe.

The meeting of a British and a French expedition on the territory of the upper Nile nearly precipitated a war between those two countries.

The year was also notable for many rumors of alliances between the various powers of Europe, changing in some instances in a most important way those now existing.

THE WAR WITH SPAIN.

The troubles between Spain and her rebellious subjects in Cuba, which had resulted in constant irritation between Spain and the United States, finally culminated in a declaration of war by the United States on April 20. This came about by a demand on the part of our government that Spain should withdraw her troops from Cuba, and that on April 22 was the time when she must give an answer as to her intentions in the matter.

The reports of the cruel and inhuman treatment by the Spanish of the peacefully minded people of Cuba were the subject of a great deal of irritation to the people of the United States. This irritation was carried to a climax by the destruction of the Maine at Havana, the subject of the war on the night of February 15. The battle ship had been ordered to that point by the President to protect American citizens. The report of her sudden destruction caused a great deal of indignation and a demand was made upon the President to seek revenge upon Spain for the disaster.

February 17 a board of naval officers was appointed to investigate the disaster. This board consisted of Capt. W. T. Sampson, Capt. F. J. Chace, Lieut. Comdr. J. M. Smith, and Lieut. Comdr. A. M. Potter. The board reported that the Maine had been ordered to Havana, the cruiser destroyed by a submarine mine. Nothing was said, however, as to the responsibility for the disaster.

On March 12 the relations between the two governments were becoming more and more strained from other causes. When the Spanish government heard that the Maine had been ordered to Havana, the cruiser destroyed by a submarine mine. Nothing was said, however, as to the responsibility for the disaster.

The De Lome Letter.

Previous to the Maine incident widespread indignation had been aroused among the people of the United States by the publication of a letter written to Senor Canalejas in Cuba, by Senor Dupuy de Lome, Spanish minister to the United States. The letter had been sent on a special mission by his government to investigate matters in Cuba. It was generally considered that the purpose of his mission was to make a report upon the condition of the country and the condition of affairs on the part of the people toward the Spanish ship, and the officers of the latter treated with marks of somewhat formal consideration.

The incident resulted in the immediate resignation of Minister De Lome. He was succeeded by Senor Polo y Bernabe, who presented his credentials to the President on March 12.

few days later, a strong remonstrance from the Spanish government, in which objection was also raised to the presence of the American ships in the waters of the West.

On April 11 President McKinley addressed to Congress a message, in which he asked for authority to intervene for the purpose of stopping the war in Cuba between the Spanish and the insurgents.

On April 19 the two houses of Congress concurred in the following resolution, which was sent to the President and by him approved the next day:

"Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled:

"1. That the people of the Island of Cuba are and of a right ought to be free and independent.

"2. That it is the duty of the United States to demand and the government of the United States does hereby demand that the government of Spain at once relinquish its authority and government in the Island of Cuba and withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters.

"3. That the President of the United States be and he is hereby directed and empowered to use the entire land and naval forces of the United States, and to call into the actual service of the United States the militia of the several states to carry these resolutions into effect.

"4. That the United States hereby disclaims any disposition or intention to exercise sovereignty jurisdiction or control over Cuba, except for the pacification thereof, and asserts its determination that it is accomplished to leave the government and control of the island to its people.

On April 18 matters between the two governments had reached such an acute stage that Spain issued an appeal to the United States, asking that a cease-fire be declared and the reports of the Cuban by her troops in the island, and asserting innocence of any complicity in the Maine disaster. She also asked that the United States should surrender her sovereignty in Cuba.

Diplomatic Relations Severed.

Two days later came the memorable announcement by the United States Congress, demanding that Spain should withdraw her troops from the island. On the day of the passage of the act Senor Bernabe, the Spanish minister, requested his passports and started for Canada. The government of Spain responded to the act of our Congress by an order from the queen ordering the cortes and appealing to the Spanish people to defend their rights. The next day Spain severed diplomatic relations with the United States by sending Minister Weyler his passports.

A blockade of the principal ports of Cuba was proclaimed by the President April 22. This order marked the actual beginning of the war and resulted in the immediate capture of a number of Spanish merchantmen as prizes by the United States fleet.

The Spanish government responded on April 23 with a decree that a cease-fire be declared between Spain and the United States. In this declaration Spain reserved holding its right to grant letters of marque to a force of American cruisers to cooperate with her navy.

The declaration had previously issued a declaration which said:

"In the event of hostilities between the United States and Spain it will be the policy of the United States to protect its citizens and its property in Cuba by the seizure of private property. The government will adhere to the following rules:

"1. Neutral goods not contraband of war are liable to confiscation under the enemy's flag.

"2. Blockades in order to be binding must be effective.

"3. On April 11 the President issued a proclamation calling for 125,000 volunteer soldiers to serve for two years unless sooner discharged. A second call for volunteers was issued on April 25.

The first attack of the American fleet was made at Mantanzas April 27, in which the Spanish fleet was completely destroyed. A second attack was made at San Juan de los Rios April 29, in which the Spanish fleet was completely destroyed. A third attack was made at San Juan de los Rios April 29, in which the Spanish fleet was completely destroyed.

A number of bombardments of towns on the Spanish coast by the fleet, under the command of Admiral Montojo, consisted of the following ships: Reina Cristina, Castilla, Don Antonio de Ulloa, the Olympia, Baltimore, Boston, Raleigh, Concord, Petrel and the revenue cutter McCullough, carrying a total personnel of 1,804 officers and men.

The Spanish naval force in Manila, under command of Admiral Montojo, consisted of the following ships: Reina Cristina, Castilla, Don Antonio de Ulloa, the Olympia, Baltimore, Boston, Raleigh, Concord, Petrel and the revenue cutter McCullough, carrying a total personnel of 1,804 officers and men.

The result of the action was summed up in the following telegram to the Secretary of the Navy:

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battery at Cavite. The squadron is unharmed and only a few men are slightly wounded. Only means of telegraphing is American consul at Hong Kong. I shall communicate with him.

(Signed) "DEWEY."

A second dispatch was received in Washington on May 7, and was as follows:

"Cavite, May 7.—I have taken possession of naval station at Cavite on Philippine Islands. Have destroyed the fortifications at bay entrance, harrying the garrison. I control bay completely and can take and destroy at any time. The squadron is in excellent health and spirits. Spanish loss not fully known, but very heavy. One hundred and fifty killed, including captain of Reina Cristina. I am assisting in protecting Spanish sick and wounded; 250 sick and wounded in hospital within our lines. Much excitement at Manila. Will protect foreign residents.

(Signed) "DEWEY."

"Surprise to the World."

The news of this splendid victory was a surprise to the world. Nothing like it had ever been accomplished before. It at once established the superiority of the American arms and had a wide-reaching effect in changing the attitude of some of the European powers whose sympathy for Spain had almost taken the form of aggressive interference.

The Secretary of the Navy expressed to Commodore Dewey, his officers and his men the thanks of President McKinley on behalf of the American people for